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TREATISE UPON THE *RHEUMATISM,* WITH OBSERVATIONS UPON SOME CAUSES that may produce it.

By JOHN CHESHIRE, M. D.

*Corporis Medicina (si altius rerum Origines repetas) non
invenitur unde ad homines manare potuerit, nisi a Deo,
S. Austin. de Civ. Dei.*

*Qui morborum scaturiginem investigat, summa dignetur
laude.*

a. 3607

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Exposition of the First Article of the Constitution of the United States.

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1. *Chlorophytum Topiarium*, Linn.

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DEDICATION



to you - this my first - and
best - effort - to be - given -

TO

FRANCIS LEWIS, Esq;
OF
STANFORD HALL

IN THE

County of NOTTINGHAM.

SIR,

I am sensible of my Happiness in your Excuse when I deviate from the Road, in which

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Dedi-

DEDICATION.

Dedicators too frequently tread, since I am assured that Flattery is as much your Aversion, as it is inconsistent with my Inclination and the just Character of a sincere Friend. As true *English* Honour is the Basis of all your Actions, so they will more eminently proclaim your Merit to the present Age, and transmit your Memory dearer to Posterity, than the greatest Encomiums from my Pen, or the most sublime Panegyrick from a more refined Genius. If in your Hours of Retirement you find any satisfactory Amusement in the Perusal of this small Treatise, I shall

DEDICATION.

I shall be extreamly pleased, and beg your Acceptance of it, as one Instance of my Gratitude, amongst the many Obligations I owe you. That you and yours may enjoy a long Series of uninterrupted Felicity is my hearty Wish, and I hope that you will not scruple to believe that I am, with all imaginable Sincerity,

SIR,

Your most obliged Friend,

and humble Servant,

Leicester,
Dec. 31, 1722.

John Cheshire.

Learn to Polka 812

Smith 1150 Jan 1982

WONG TSU WU CHAN HON LEE

1900-1901



THE P R E F A C E.

 *S* the following Treatise is the Result of my own Notions in regard to the Cause and Nature of the Rheumatism, so what I have mentioned in relation to the Cure, proceeds from my own Observations and Experience in Practice. I am persuaded I shall not stand condemned in the Judgment of an unprejudiced Reader, though I differ in Opinion from those, who are avowed Enemies to every physical System, which does not entirely concur with their own darling Hypothesis, especially since I have endeavoured to assign natural Reasons for the Production of this Distemper;

P R E F A C E.

per; how far I have been defective in that Point, I frankly submit to the World, who are ultimate Judges in Affairs of this kind. Nothing is perfect on this side Heaven, and Inadvertencies will as necessarily attend all human Performances, as Sin the Author. I have this Satisfaction, I am in this small Treatise guilty of no willful Mistake, and therefore may reasonably presume I shall evade the Censures of the candid and generous Part of Mankind; and as for others, I neither value their Frowns, nor court their Approbation, since the Justice of my Intention (viz. the Good of Mankind) will atone for the Frailities of my Pen, and screen me from the impotent Assaults of the snarling Critick.

If any of superior Capacities would be so good as to convince me of an Error, I shall think it my Duty to make a publick Recantation of it, being assured

P R E F A C E.

Surel that it is more honourable to submit
to Conviction upon just Motives, than
to persist upon a plausible Foundation in
Opposition to the received Notions of
Mankind.

The Histories of Diseases written by
the Antients, are not so compleat and
correct as some of later Date, and yet
(with all due Deference to the Charac-
ter of a great Man, who has lately o-
bliged the World with a Treatise up-
on the Small Pox, &c.) I think the
reading of some of them very neces-
sary, since I am certain some useful
Discoveries are deducible from the se-
rious Perusal of them.

In Hippocrates's Days, and some
time afterwards, Physick was in its In-
fancy; and undoubtedly some Allow-
ances may be indulged to such a State,
which when in future Ages it arrived
at Maturation it could not be supposed
to want. No Science has attained to a

P R E F A C E.

greater Degree of Perfection, I believe, than the Art of Healing; and yet there are many Things which lyē dormant from the greatest Masters, and what none will be ashamed to confess. Hippocrates, that sublime Genius, generously declared, in an Epistle to Democritus, that though he was in a very advanced Age, got near the final Period of Life, he was not got to the End of Physick. I shall give the true Reasons that produced the Publication of this, and submit it to the Reader's impartial Judgment. During my Confinement under the last Fit of the Gout, in the Intervals from Pain, and at the Declension of the Fit, I applied my Thoughts upon the following Subject, which treats upon a Disease, that is in it self to be vanquished by proper Applications; but the Gout (in spite of the American and Anodyne) is incurable, as I could readily make apparent, had I Leisure or Inclination;

P R E F A C E.

clication; but as no Body attempts to cure it but Quacks, so none but Fools or Madmen will become the Objects of their Cure, and they probably will not long continue so; for if the Disease cannot kill, what they intend as an Antidote comes into its Assistance, and so concludes their Pains and Life together.

The Shortness of this Treatise may perhaps recommend it to the Perusal of some, who are not willing to be at the Trouble of reading a Book of a larger Bulk; I could have protracted it to a much greater Length, but I apprehend I have said all that was necessary, and any thing more is superfluous.



as regente vold om in. sed; nieten
te zeggen dat er een gheenkele reden te
vinden is dat de koning van Spanje niet
zich tot hem wendt. Hier volgt hierop
een enkele celone
ceterum lo; tot hi die Dijfde celone
verbint ons tot herten. vaste tafel. Hier
volgt hier een celone. en dan de celone
welke god selbste heeft geschenkt
van alten dingen tot herten. tot
de celone. P. sed; er is een celone
welke tot de celone van vaste tafel. en dan
verbint s; tot herten. en celone. tot
de celone van vaste tafel. en dan
verbint s; tot herten. en celone. tot
de celone van vaste tafel. en dan
verbint s; tot herten. en celone. tot



TREATISE UPON THE RHEUMATISM, With OBSERVATIONS upon some CAUSES that may produce it.



THAT the *Origin* of a *Rheumatism* is primarily seated in the *Blood* is sufficiently evident, as well from the *Symptoms*, that attend this *Disease*, as from

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from the Method, which is necessary to effect the Cure: After what Manner the whole Mass of Blood becomes so far vitiated from its uniform State, as to occasion such racking and pungent Pains, as afflict those, who are tortured with this *Malady*, shall be the Subject of the following Treatise.

Whether this *Distemper* was known to the *Antients* has long been disputed, and even now the Controversy is not conclusively determined; in my Judgment, they were not Strangers to it, though they have not so accurately and intelligibly described it under all its various Circumstances, as some of the *Moderns* have: *Hippocrates* by πόνος ἀρρών, πόνος σνδέων, could point at nothing but the *Rheumatism*, or its near Relation the *Arthritis Vaga*; and what we

now

now call a Pleurify, is by Diocorides termed a *Rheumatism* of the Breast: Now if in his Days there had been no other Species of *Rheumatisms*, which seized other Parts of the Body, why should this great Man stile it a *Rheumatism* of that particular Part, since the Word it self (viz. a *Rheumatism*) would have been expressive enough of the Distemper: And Galen in *Sambare ructuaria*, Lib. Quatuor. mentions a Lassitude cum inflammatione, for which he ordered repeated Phlebotomy usque ad Hypothymiam vel saltēm bis in die, an attenuating cooling Diet, Food of easy Digestion, Prysans, that were moderately acid, to dilute the Cohesion of those Particles, which caused the Inflammation, and to carry it off; from this Description of an inflammatory Lassitude, and the Method, that was advised for the

the Relief of those, who were afflicted with it, we may reasonably conclude that it was a Species of what is now esteemed a *Rheumatism*.

There is in every Constitution a Propensity or natural Tendency to one Disease more than another, and this seems to proceed from the weak Structure of the Fabrick, not equally fortified in every Part from the Inconveniences, which Man, from the Nature of his Existence, is continually exposed to ; the various Inclemencies of the Air, any Irregularity in eating or drinking, produces different Effects in different Persons : One from an *obstructed Perspiration* (or as we generally term it from taking Cold) is attacked with a *Pleurisy*, another is seized with an *Angina*, a third with a *Diarrhoea*, *bilious*

out colick, &c. a fourth is arrested with the *Indisposition*, of which I here treat, and consigned Captive to its Cruelty. Thus when any Thing that is offensive to Nature is conveyed into the Blood, it takes Possession, like an artful Enemy, of the weakest Part; and when the Constitution by any Excesses is egregiously impaired, it reigns triumphant through the whole Machine, till by the Application of proper Remedies the Enemy is vanquished, and the Patient is restored to his former Health and pristine Vigour.

The Cause of a *Rheumatism* may be assign'd to a serous, saline, acid Humour, superfluously abounding in the Blood, which by reason of its Copiousness, and exorbitant Acrimony, vellicates, and corrodes the membranous Parts of the Body, and so excites sometimes fixed and sometimes exra-

tick Aches, in Proportion to the Largeness or Minuteness of the Vessels through which this *vitiated Fluid* circulates.

Another Cause, that may produce a *Rheumatism*, is an unusual Viscidity of the Blood, and Juices secreted from it, and this is the most permanent Basis of this *Distemper*; for by it the Motion of the Blood is impeded, the Velocity diminished, and a Stagnation arises, or else the Quantity of this fizy, glutinous Fluid is too great to pass without distending the tender Coats of the Vessels beyond the Capacity designed by the Law of Nature, and the Decree of our all-wise Creator.

It is, in my Opinion, no small Misfortune that we are so little acquainted with the Nature of those Particles, which constitute the Blood, and I am persuaded if the Time,

Time, that has in vain been spent by those, who admire *Chymical Curiosity*, had been applied in a *mechanical Way*, we had e're this had some useful Discoveries, and clearer Ideas of the Diseases, which harrass Mankind, than we now have, and consequently might have found out more expeditious Remedies for their Restoration to a healthful State.

If we consider after what Manner the Blood is recruited for the Sustenance of the *animal Oeconomy*, we shall find, that such as the Nutriment, which we daily receive, is, such is the Chyle, and such as the Chyle is, such is the Blood; and in Consequence every Liquor separated from it must partake of the same individual Qualities, unless there is a Defect in the digestive Faculty, and then the best Aliment may be so far perverted, as not to afford any

real Nourishment, but may be the Parent of many, and perchance inseparable Disorders; when the Organs of Digestion are naturally defective, or adventitiously impaired, great Inconveniences must ensue to the no small Detriment of the Patient's Ease, and perchance his Life too; and though in the first Case, properly speaking, an absolute Cure must not be expected, yet by an agreeable Regimen and Respite from Pain may be secured, and in the second, by early Application and convenient Medicines, the injured Parts may be invigorated, and brought to their natural Tone and primitive Office.

As soon as our Food is sufficiently comminuted in our Stomachs, and fit to be converted into Chyle, it is carried into the Intestines, at its Entrance into which, it is diluted

by the Bile and Pancreatick Juice; its finest and most subtle Parts are received by the most minute Orifices of the Lacteal Veins, and protruded to the Receptaculum Chyle; from thence it is conveyed to the Ductus Thoracicus, and discharges it self into the Subclavian Vein, and by the Vena Porta is transmitted to the right Auricle of the Heart, where circulating through both its Auricles and Ventricle, by the Interposition of the Arteria Pulmonalis with the Vena Pulmonalis, it is by the contractive Power of the musculotis Fibres of the left Ventricle propelled into the Aorta, and so by the Arterial Tubes is transfused into those Parts of the Body, which are capable to receive it, for the Nourishment and Support of that glorious Machine. Hence it appears, that whenever we deviate from the Rules of Temperance, and
are

are guilty of an Excess either in Respect of the Quantity or Quality of what we eat or drink, we fix a Load more than tolerable upon Nature, and so of Necessity she must succumb. Thus the Blood and Nerves are struck into Confusion, become alienated from their regular *Crasis*, and *Pandora's Present to Epimetheus* is frequently the Fate of the *Epicure*, who then finds the Poet's Observation experimentally verified, — *Nocet empia dolore voluptas.*

The Stomach from the Nature of its Situation and Office must abound with a peccant Acid, which from the Laws of Digestion and Sanguification, will contaminate the Mass of Blood; and when that is once saturated with heterogeneous Particles, they will, unless corrected by a proper and long continued Course of *Alteratives*, by their attractive Power, form them-selves,

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selves, in Process of Time, into a chronick or acute Indisposition: When an Acid is once got into the Blood, none can tell of what pernicious Consequence it may prove; but this we know from Experience, that if Oil of *Vitriol* is injected into the jugular Vein of a Dog, the whole Mass immediately coagulates, and he expires in the highest convulsive Agonies: It may be objected, that an Acid so strong and penetrating as that before mentioned, cannot by any natural Means be conveyed into our Blood: To which I answer, If it could, Death would as certainly be our Portion, as it was of the aforesaid *Quadruped*.

Though such an Acid as would instantaneously stop the Circulation, cannot by any natural Means be received in our Bodies, yet there may be sufficient to compel the red Particles of the Blood into preternatural

ral Coagulum, and so destroy that intimate Union, which is betwixt the red and serous Parts, as absolutely necessary to preserve the Blood in a balsamic and uniform State; hence the red Globles are forced to cohere in a more strict and intimate Combination with one another, from the predominant Acid that is in the Serum, which from its sluggish Motion has contracted an Acrimony, as Liquors especially of the Elementary Sort will, as is apparent from the Stagnation of Water, which turns viscid and stenches, for want of necessary Motion to clarify and keep it self pure; that such a Dyscraſy may occasion those Pains, which Rheumatics are ſensible of, is plain, from this Reafon, because the vitiated Texture of the Blood will not permit it to circulate with its usual Velocity thro' the minute Passages, and ſo from this Obſtruction

struction those torturing Sensations are induced, which *Rheumatics* generally complain of, and from which bleeding will frequently give them Ease.

When the Blood from the Nature of our Food or Liquor, or any external Injury, is stocked with saline Particles, (as certainly it may from the Manner aforesaid) what terrible Commotions, what acute Pains, may we not expect from the united Force of an acid and a saline *Corpuscle*? What Ravages, what Hostilities will they not commit in the fine and minute *Capillaries*, which are dispersed thro' the whole human Fabrick? If there is a stronger attractive Power betwixt the saline *Corpuscles*, than betwixt the acid and saline Particles, (for in a *Rheumatick* State, I suppose an Acid in the Blood) then the Salts will run into Clusters, and from such Nodes, or Chalk-stones, as are often the Ef-

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fect of the Gout, and sometimes happens from a severe and longcontinued *Rheumatism*, as I observed in a Gentlewoman, my Patient, who had a regular *Tophus* taken out of her Thumb, caused by a violent and long *Rheumatism*, that had afflicted her for some Years: I was importunate in examining, whether she or any of her Family had been subject to what is very justly called the *opprobrium Medicorum*, but could not learn that she, or any Branch of the Family, had ever suffered by the *uncontrollable Tyranny* of the Gout. On the other hand, when the Attraction is stronger betwixt the *Acid*, than betwixt the *saline* and *acid Particles*, the red Parts of the Blood will be condens'd, and the serous Parts more liquified, because as the Coagulum increaseth, in the same Proportion will the Serum be more copious; and this seems to

to be that *Rheumatick State*, in which our learned and honoured Countryman Dr. Sydenham used the Lancet with so much Freedom and Success; and to encourage his Followers not to forget or omit reiterated bleeding, he assures us, that his *Patients* were so far from being weakned by the large Quantities of Blood which he took from them, that the Disease grew weaker, and their Strength was augmented.

From the close Combination of these *saline Particles*, carried by the Laws of Circulation to any particular Part, seems to arise those pungent Pains, which *Rheumatics* feel; the pointed Angles of the Salts lacerating the tender Coats of the Vessels, must, as the great and ingenious *Pitcairn* observes, induce a Solution of Continuity, and from their over Quantity the Circulation will be retarded

in that particular Part, and in Consequence very sharp and dolorous Sensations must be excited: And this is farther illustrated from the Method, which, under these troublesome Circumstances, will often afford Relief, and that is *Friction* either with the Hand or a warm Cloth; for by this *pressive Motion*, the Union of the Salts is destroyed, they are reduced to such a Smallness, as to be capable of being reassumed by the circulating Mass: Thus the Enemy is obliged to retreat for a Time, till, by its *attractive Power*, it gains new Recruits, and then exerts it self in another Paroxism.

Heat conduces much to the Fluidity of Bodies by lessening the Tenacity of their component Parts; renders many Bodies fluid, which otherwise are not so, and augments the Fluidity of tenacious Liquors, as of Honey, Oil, Balsam, &c. By its Influence

fluence the Blood becomes of a more liquid Consistence, the intestine Motion of its various Particles will be increased, the *saline*, and *acid Corpuscles* will more frequently (from the accelerated Motion) collide against the inside of the Vessels, and by their sudden and violent Contact stimulate and excite Pain; this probably may be one Reason, why the *Rheumatism* rages more immoderately when the Patient begins to be warm in Bed, than when up, especially since if he walks about the Room, he finds some Respite from the Assault of his irksome Companion. It is observable that as the Urine of *Rheumatics* in Distillation does not yield a due Quantity of Salt, proportionable to the Quantity of Urine; so it is evident that these Salts being retained in the Blood turn *acid*, and lay the Foundation for an *Iliad* of Miseries.

That

That the *Rheumatism* and *Scurvy* have many Symptoms in common with one another is obvious to all, who are but little conversant with the Practice of *Physick*; one of which I shall here particularly observe, viz. that pungent corrosive Pain which seizes the muscular Parts of the Legs, and which the Patient describes by a gnawing Pain; this is occasioned by a stronger Coalition of the *heterogeneous Particles*, because in those Parts the Circulation is slower, and so consequently the Attraction is greater: To distinguish betwixt these two (in some Cases) similar Distempers requires a very penetrating and sagacious Judgment, for an Error of this kind has sometimes entailed a numerous Retinue of Inconveniences upon the unhappy Patient, and thro' a tedious Series of Inquietudes brought his Hairs, without the Characteristic

nick of old Age, with Sorrow to the Grave. I knew an Apothecary, who mistaking the *Rheumatism* for the *Scurvy*, (indeed there is a *scorbutick Rheumatism*) order'd the *antiscorbutick Juices*; after the third Dose he fell into an ardent Fever, and on the fifth Day died delirious; tho' I think this Misfortune is not peremptorily to be imputed to the Administration of this Medicine, but to some Inflammation that was insinuated into the Blood; for after proper Evacuation, tho' the Case was not rightly judged, the aforesaid *Juices* had been no despicable Remedy.

Innumerable and unforeseen Accidents attend poor Mortals, that very much imbibers the most exalted Pleasures of Life, and hurries on that fatal Hour, that puts a final Period to all our Anxieties; and tho' we cannot reverse the Decrees of Hea-

ven so far as entirely to prevent them, yet by a prudent and adequate Management of our selves, a strict Conformity to the Rules of Temperance, and proper Exercise, we may in a great Measure obviate the impending Blow, protract the Thread of Life to a considerable Length, and make our Exit in a good advanced Age. The *Air* in which we breath abounds at certain Seasons with *Particles* that are inimical to our well Being and Repose; we imbibe more or less of an *Acid* with every Inspiration, and *Lindanus* informs us, that one of the best Juices in our Bodies, the Spittle, is inquinated with an *Acid*, that floats in our Atmosphere; and, as he says, by Degrees becomes the Basis of malignant Diseases: That there is an *Acid* in the *Air*, is demonstrable from the *natural Niter*, frequently observed upon old Stone Walls, and

and also from the Experiment of *Vr-
bird*, which after Distillation, if it
lies exposed to the Air, will afford
a stronger Spirit from the second
Preparation than it did the first.
When the *Salvia* is once polluted
with an *Acid*, it will convey that of-
fensive Quality to every *Juice* in the
Body, and when they are perverted
from their natural Purity, Distem-
pers of various kinds must necessa-
rily be produced within the human
Machine. Since we are thus envi-
roned with unavoidable Danger, it
is the Interest of every prudent Man,
upon the first Notice of an Indispo-
sition, to consult those, whose Pro-
vince it is to restore lost Health, so
that by proper Application the Dis-
ease may be stifled in Embrio, and its
Seed eradicated before it comes to
deadly Maturation: And as Preven-
tion of an approaching Illness is in-

finitely preferable to the Cure, so it is an Article of Prudence to attend to what the Poet says,

—*Venienti occurrite morbo.*

Disorders are distinguished by different Appellations in regard to the Part they are seated in, tho' many proceed from the same original Cause, *viz.* a *Cacochymy*; and this sometimes has its Rise from internal, and sometimes from external Injuries: I shall delineate some various Effects from the same primary Cause, and for the rest refer the Reader to *Etmuller* and *Riverius*; where I'm certain he'll be highly delighted in the just, accurate, and instructive Description of various Diseases, deducible from one and the same individual Foundation. When a *Cacochymy* is once got into the human Machine, some Disorder must necessarily appear, according

to

to the Nature and Tendency of the vitiated Fluid; when it displays it self in an Inflammation of the Jaws, Throat, and parts adjacent, it is call'd an *Angina*; when it seizes the *Pleura*, it is term'd a *Pleuritis*; when the Substance of the *Lungs* is inflam'd, it is term'd a *Peripneumonia*; when it rushes into the inner Coats of the Bowels, it excites a *Cholick*; when it fixes upon the *Venæ Hæmorrhoides* and extends to the *Intestinum Rectum*, it is call'd the *Piles*; when it takes its Seat in the muscular Parts of the Body, it is stil'd a *Rheumatism*; and when from its superabundant Acrimony it ravages farther into the Oeconomy, and fixes upon the *Joints* and *neighbouring Parts*, it is call'd the *Gout*: When any Part is tumify'd from the Severity of a *Rheumatism* it is not discoloured, but in the Gout the Part is very red, much inflam'd,

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and at the Declension of the Fit
fwell'd; which argues the Cause of
the latter to be more pungent, acute
and penetrating than the former, and
this, together with the different
Places these two Enemies of human
Repose occupy, may serve as a Di-
stinction betwixt one and the other
Disease as to the common Pheno-
mena.

I shall now endeavour to illustrate,
that an unusual Viscidity of the Blood
and Juices secreted from it may be
the Basis of a *Rheumatism*, (this was
the Opinion of the late ingenious
and learned Dr. James Kiell) and
this preternatural Thickness may be
transfused into the Mass from the
Insinuation of *Frigorifick Particles*
thro' the Pores of the Skin, that is,
those nitrous Atoms, which fluctuate
in the Air in cold Weather; hence
the Blood is disposed to run into such
Cohesions,

Cohesions, as are proper to form the Humours, seern'd in the Glands of the Lungs and Nose, and by their attractive Force will unite with the Particles, that swim in the Serum of the Blood; thus a *Lentor* will be produced; and as in the Extremities the Attraction will be strongest, because in those Parts the Motion of all the Particles is near equal, so a Sense of Pain will be perceiv'd, when the Blood is in a *Rheumatick State*, in those Parts, that from the distant Situation from the Fountain of Motion, the *Heart*, the Circulation is languid, and not able to prevent the Union of the *Heterogeneous Corpuscles*; And as it is obvious that if a known Quantity of Liquor must circulate thro' a *Tube* of a determinate *Diameter*, and any Part of that Fluid is more condensed or viscid than the rest, that viscid or condensed Part will

will more forcibly press against the Sides of the *Tube*, and if it is capable of Extension, swell it beyond its usual and natural Capacity; so the Blood when in any Vessel it is more glutinous than it ought to be will extend it, and Pain will be the necessary Consequence of that violent Distention which the Vessel sustains, as well from the Viscidity, as from the retarded Motion of the Fluid.

As I'm treating of a *Distemper* that sometimes displays its Tyranny in fixed, and sometimes in vagrant Aches, it may not be improper to mention one *Medicine*, that under these Circumstances is second to none, as an *Alterative* after necessary Evacuation, in the whole System of physical Preparations; that is, *Cinnab. Antimon.* a *Medicine* of Sterling Worth, known Efficacy, and seldom fails of Success, if administered with Judgment;

Judgment; but *verbum Sapienti sat est*: I write not for the Information of Quacks, and the Gentlemen of the Faculty want none; only this I'll observe, that there is no Intention to be answered in a *Rheumatick Case*, but what we may reasonably presume *Cinnab. Antimon.* will effect. What Advantages may we not expect from the united Force of *Mercury*, *Sulphur*, and *Antimony*, the three Articles that constitute this noble Medicine; which by its Subtilty and Solidity is enabled to pass thro' the minutest Passages, and by its *Momentum* to break thro' the little Obstructions of the Vessels, the Fibres, and nervous Meanders, in which the Seat of a *Rheumatism* is frequently fix'd? *Mercury* is to the Blood as one is to thirteen, so that the Velocity of the Blood must by such a Medicine be augmented, proportionably to the
Particles

Particles of *Mercury* that is got into it, and becoming part of the circulating Fluid, must of Course, by the necessary Laws of Motion, from their superior Gravities, be of great Force to break their Way, where Particles of less Gravity cannot get thro'; for by how much the *Mercurial Globules* are heavier than the *Globules* of the Blood, or any Thing contain'd it, by so much will the Pressure of them be greater against every Thing that stands in their way; and therefore will any Obstructions in the Glands or Capillaries be sooner removed by such Particles, than by those which are lighter: Hence the Viscidity will be diluted, and a more vigorous Circulation encouraged; and as Sublimate is depriv'd of its corrosive Faculty by the Addition of more *Mercury*, which potently attracts its *acid Salts*; so *Mercury* mixt with

with the Blood attracts its acid *Salts*, and cohering to them carries them off by those Passages, in which by virtue of its Nature its Operation consists.

Lewenhoek pretends by the Assistance of the Glasses to have discovered the Texture of the *Cuticula* to be scaly, and that those Scales cover one another in several Lays more or less, according to the different Thickness of the Scarf-skin in the several Parts of the Body; in the Compass of one cuticular Scale he reckons there may be five hundred excretory Channels, and that a Grain of Sand will cover one hundred twenty five thousand *Orifices*, thro' which we daily perspire: Now if the *cutaneous Pores* are as numerous as this Author says they are, we may readily imagine, when, at particular Times, we are surrounded with, or rather breath in an acid Air, and the *Particles* of

this Acid are of a similar Form with the Capacities of these Pores, what a vast Quantity of these acid Particles must be received by the gaping Passages, and by this Means trans fus'd into the Blood, must condense the liquid Part, and so induce a *Coagulum*, or at least a *Lentor*, and so the whole Mass becomes perverted from its natural and uniform Crasis: If thro' the whole Body such an infinite Number of secretory Outlets is diffus'd, there must be a very large Quantity of perspirable Matter dis charg'd continually thro' them; *Sanc torious* was of Opinion, that fifty Ounces of perspirable Matter was evacuated in the Space of twelve Hours, but the learned Sir *John Floyer* found to the contrary in our Climate by Experiments made for that purpose; so that instead of fifty Ounces in twelve Hours, it is evident we on-
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ly perspire about seven or eight in that Time. If thro' an Obstruction of the cutaneous Pores from any external Cause, or too intimate a Cohesion of the Particles to be seerned, the *Materia Perspirabilis* is retained in the Body, we may easily (for Reasons before assign'd) conceive how and after what Manner a *Rheumatism*, or some other Disorder not very unlike it, may ensue; for when the Blood is once overcharged with heterogeneous Qualities, they will shew themselves either by Stagnations, or Irritations, and so produce Diseases according to the Character of the predominant Humour.

The Severities of a *Rheumatism* delight to libertinise in various Parts of the human Fabrick, triumphs in different Shapes in different Persons, compels the most resolute Courage to submit to their Authority, and ac-

knowledge the irresistible Weight of their *Prerogative*: Sometimes an Impotence to Motion seizes the Patient, which results not so much from an Obstruction of the Nerves, as from the Violence of the Pain, by Reason of which the Muscles cannot contract themselves; sometimes it rages more universally, and sometimes it is confin'd to a particular Part, and another Time flies with surprizing Rapidity from one to the opposite Side of the Body, and will elude the Power of the most efficacious Remedies: *Etmuller de Feribus*, pag. 217. tells us how Fevers are produced, his Words are these: *Causæ febrium in genere erunt omnia ea, quæ cras in massæ sanguineæ naturalem pervertere, & talem disrasiam, sentale heterogenitatem, & non miscibilitatem ut ita dicam partium componentium inducere possunt, ut exinde saluum conatu*

concussa

concussa fermentatio præternaturalis concitetur. Now a Fever always is concomitant with this *Distemper*, but 'tis sometimes purely *Symptomatical*, as in the Gout, and is occasioned merely by the Pain and Uneasiness, under which the Patient severely labours, and therefore in no wise shortens the Fit; but when the Fever is *coequal* and falls in *originally* with that *Dyscasy* of the Blood and Juices, which is the Parent of this *Distemperature*, the Illness it self becomes acute, and either terminates in Death or a speedy *Crisis*; thus *Erysipelite*, *Pleurisy*, *Quinsy*, &c.

There is another Sort of a *Rheumatism*, that observes a certain and constant Period in its Attack and Duration, entirely different from that I here treat of, an Instance of which, I shall beg Leave to transcribe from our great and learned Countryman

Dr.

Dr. *Willis De Scorbuto*: He tells us of a Gentleman, who by sitting too long in his Study, when the Walls were newly plastered, had so far vitiated his Blood, that he was seized with violent Pains all over his Body exactly at four a Clock every Morning, which held him till eight; they were so exquisitely severe, that had they been continual, an Alienation of Mind must have ensued; and this is that *convulsive Rheumatism* which Dr. *Pitts* makes mention of in the *Philosophical Transactions*, N^o. 200. p. 58. and which was cured by the same Means.

As this *Disease* is rarely found in the same Degree, and under the same Circumstances in different Persons, partly from the different Constitutions of the Patients, and partly from the various Causes, which occasion it; so it is impossible to prescribe an universal

universal Method, that will infallibly succeed in all *Rheumatick Cases*; for it often happens, that what will entirely eradicate the Distemper in one, shall add new Force to, and confirm it in another: Tho' this I'll undertake to assert, that a *Rheumatism* is with as much Facility cur'd as any other chronick Indisposition, that afflicts Mankind, if the Oppress'd has the good Fortune to fall into the Hands of a prudent and distinguishing *Physician*, who scorns to trifle with his Patient to enhance his own Advantage, or magnify the Apothecary's Bill. But such is the preposterous Incogitancy of the present Age, that proper Advice is seldom call'd in, till the Patient by the unerring Direction of some all-wise *Medicastor* has swallow'd down every Article, both *Galenical* and *Chymical*, in the whole *Materia Medica*; then the ignorance

norance of the Man is undeniably demonstrated by the Obsturacy of the *Disease*; at last he condescends that a *Physician* shall be sent for, who without any prophetick Knowledge can foretel the poor Man's approaching *Catastrophe*, and no Possibility of Prevention; thus too great a Confidence in the Gentlemen of the Pestle, Quacks, Nostrum-mongers, and good old Women (as they are generally call'd) has sign'd many Passports for innumerable deluded Wretches, to set sail in the Ocean of Eternity, and happy very happy it is for these surviving *Pretenders to Physick*, that the State of Oblivion cannot be the Scene of Repentance, and the Grave can lodge no Appeal for Male-practice; yet however these Homicides may escape the Cognizance of temporal Laws, they stand accountable at the Bar of Heaven; what will then be

be the Wages of these abominable and insufferable Sinners, is only known to Him, who at the grand Tribunal will reward all Men according to their Works.

Disorders are frequently by Mismanagement made incorrigible, malignant, and fatal, which the timely Inspection of a good *Physician* might have prevented; hence the Gentlemen of the *Profession* (whose Abilities and Merit are conspicuous to the learn'd Part of the World) are traduc'd, aspers'd, and calumniated by those who rashly judge of Things at first View, thro' the intolerable Ignorance of these *audacious Usurpers*. Was it possible to advance a Course of Physick, that would, if administer'd with Judgment, certainly relieve every Species of the *Rheumatism*, it would neither be convenient or safe so to do; for first it would divulge the Arcana of the *Faculty*, and secondly, every illiterate Coxcomb, if he could work himself into a Belief

that he was tortur'd with this *Disease*, would indiscriminately conform to the Method propos'd, and probably mistaking his Case, might *per-baps* entail a numerous Retinue of corporal Misfortunes upon himself, that would not only render the Remainder of his Days very uncomfortable, but would accelerate the Discharge of that Debt, which all Mankind by the irreversible Law of Nature is oblig'd to pay. As to the *Therapeutick Part* of this and all other *Diseases*, so far as they are curable, it is familiar and obvious to those, who are Guardians of Health, when the Cause is found out, and the Case rightly judg'd; those are undoubtedly the most likely under all Exigencies to form the best Judgment, who from one of our illustrious Fountains of *Literature* have imbib'd *Botanical*, *Anatomical*, and *Chymical* Notions, and are not unacquainted with the Mode of *Galenical Preparations*, and by an honest and strenuous

ous Application, and frequent Conversation with the Fathers of Medicine (if I may be allowed the Expression) back'd with the Observation of a successful Practice, have acquired Credit to themselves, and afforded Relief to those, who have desir'd their Assistance.

I've said before, how many Ways the Mass of human Blood may be vitiated, I shall now tell the Consequences of such a *Dyscrasy*, the worst of which is impeding the *Perspiration*; for this being in a Natural State proportionate to its *Velocity* in the Vessels, it must follow, that when from any preternatural Cause this *Velocity* is retarded, the Matter perspir'd must be less, therefore the Quantity retain'd more: Take and weigh a Coffee-dish full of *Rheumatick Blood* against the same Quantity of the same Person in a State of Health; (what the exact Difference is, I have not experienc'd, but all agree the *Rheumatick* is heavier) now the Weight

of the Blood being as its Quantity and Density conjointly, since the Quantity is the same, the Weight is as its Density, and therefore the Energy of the Heart or Impulse being Suppos'd uniform, the Velocity of the Blood and Juices are in a reciprocal Proportion to this Weight; now Perspiration is as this Velocity, and therefore Circulation, Life, Health, and Perspiration seems to be only different Names for the same Thing.

I would not be understood as if Life may not be without Health, and Perspiration without Circulation, (for when a Body is once put into Motion, 'tis no Wonder it should continue to move some time after the *vis Motrix* has ceas'd to act) but I mean that these Operations of Nature are congenial, uniform, and proportionate; from whence it will follow that the Difference of Weight, which I mention'd in the last Paragraph, is the *Perspirabile Interclusum*.

Now we need not be concern'd that
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in feverish and most inflammatory Distempers, the Velocity of the Blood is greater, and yet the Perspiration less, for this is accidental from the Obstruction of the cuticular Glands, which being at last by the encreasing Velocity overcome, the Perspirable flows out like the Burst of a Gun in Sweat and Dew.

Whatever therefore will dilute the Blood (that is lessen its Density) will certainly find out a ready and expeditious Cure for this Disease; now bleeding, purging gently with Calomel, (for of this the Effect is plain in Salivation) Whey, Bath Waters, &c. provided the Stomach will bear them, will answer this End, as also the whole Generation of Diureticks, the Effects of which last nam'd Medicines, if we could as certainly promise as Catharticks, we should be the most accomplish'd Fellows in the World, and the Art of Physick shine out in its most consummate Zenith; but because we cannot propose to our selves

selves or Patients that Happiness, we must be content with that small part of the glutinous Serum, which may with Safety be evacuated by Blisters.

I shall offer a Word by way of Cau-
tion, and bid adieu at present to this
Subject: He who wishes that Diseases
may rage *Epidemically*, that he may
have an Opportunity of enriching
himself at the Expence of other Peo-
ples *Fortunes*, and perhaps *Lives* too,
ought not to be esteem'd a good Sub-
ject; a sincere Friend, or an honest
Physician: A Man of Integrity can
entertain no such despicable Expec-
tations in his Breast, abhors such
Thoughts, because they are pernici-
ous, vain, and entirely contradictory
to that glorious and Christian Doc-
trine of *doing as we would be done by*:
When a Man can once so far cast off
the Obligations of Religion, as to
with Ill or Misery to his Neighbour,
nothing but the Fear of *penal Conse-
quences*, or Inability to compleat what
he hopes, can prevent the Execution
of

of his Intentions: Alas! Misfortunes and Diseases are too too common and incident to human Nature, are the chief Articles of our temporal Inheritance, and the necessary Ingredients of our Composition, and must one Day be our fatal Portion; therefore we ought to contend against them, that we may enjoy many Days to prepare us for the great Business of Eternity, and yet the great and eternal King of Men and Angels has, in infinite Wisdom, contrived an Antidote, or at least a *Solamen* against them all, viz. a Conformity to his divine Precepts, which will not only contribute to our unconceivable Advantage in a future State, but also to the Tranquillity and Long-continuance of our Bodies in this. *Temperance* never cast any one into a Fever, nor a moderate and innocent Use of the Creature into a Surfeit; *Chastity* never enervated the Body, nor terminated in Rottenness of the Bones; *Luxury* and *Excess*

Excess are the fruitful Parents of Di-
stempers, and the different Sorts of
those long applauded Vices, have
made Diseases vary from their own
original Type, forc'd a Complication
of Disorders upon many, which a
more abstemious Course of Life
might have prevented; the prevalent
and peccant Humour might very pro-
bably have center'd in a simple, re-
gular, and uniform Disorder, and
consequently as the Danger would
be less, so the Cure might more cer-
tainly and expeditiously be effected.

